

28 SEP 1955 ⁷⁻⁵⁰⁷⁰

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT : USIA Membership on IAC

1. I have considered the several views concerning the position which CIA should take regarding extending membership on the IAC to IRI/USIA.

2. Essentially the views are:

a. Mr. Loomis (Chief, IRI/USIA): He strongly wishes it and feels there is an adequate case.

b. Mr. Streibert: Views unknown, but presumably would support Loomis' views if asked.

c. Mr. Bissell (See Tab A):

(1) Does not consider it necessary.

(2) Considers it desirable as soon as the IAC can be conditioned to accept it at some future time.

(3) Believes that the conditioning of the IAC will be facilitated by your raising the question of USIA membership at an IAC meeting, indicating your own friendly attitude, but not pressing the issue.

d. Mr. Amory (See Tab B):

(1) Strongly favors the membership as a constructive step in improving IAC by addition of a new and qualified collector and producer.

(2) Recommends against allowing Streibert to apply, but proposes instead that IAC tender the offer.

(3) Suggests that the argument against increasing IAC size can be overcome by making USIA and AEC alternate members.

e. Mr. Wisner (See Tab C):

(1) IAC Membership would subject USIA to the type of coordination, control and discipline which the community has imposed on itself in the IAC.

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(3) We should support membership.

3. My conclusions are:

- a. IRI/USIA has a valuable contribution to make.
- b. Membership not necessary to obtain contribution.
- c. If we recommend USIA to IAC, it must clearly indicate that while we are proposing, we are not pressing the issue.

4. I recommend, that after discussing with Amory, you or I at an early opportunity raise the matter at IAC in Executive Session essentially as follows:

"In view of growing capability of IRI/USIA, we have wondered if it would be advantageous for USIA to become a member of IAC. (Do not mention any approaches or hints by Loomis.) After studying the idea, we believe that it would be beneficial to the community if USIA were a member of the IAC. IRI/USIA has a growing capability for collecting and evaluating intelligence of much value to the Intelligence Community. We would appreciate very much the views of the other members."

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C. P. CABELL
DDCI

"I agree with rec
in para 4. Would
like to see Amory
possibly bring this
up at the next
meeting" AWD

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6 September 1955

TAB
A

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant to the Director (Mr. Vincent Lockhart)

SUBJECT : USIA Membership on the IAC

1. I am sorry to have delayed my comments on the attached papers. I submit the following:


a. I am inclined to agree with Mr. Wisner that USIA membership in the IAC would not adversely affect its mission abroad.

b. I agree definitely with Mr. Wisner's paragraph 5 to the effect that this Agency certainly should not, in the interest of an effective relationship with the USIA, take a position in opposition to its membership in the IAC.

c. On the other hand, I would be most reluctant to see the Director build up pressures which would bring about an immediate acquiescence by the IAC if that acquiescence were very half-hearted on the part of the other members and if they would be disposed to hold this Agency responsible for the outcome. In other words, we should have in mind the goodwill not only of the USIA but of the other intelligence agencies.

d. As the two foregoing comments suggest, the issue here involved seems to me to be mainly one of inter-agency relationships; I do not honestly believe the USIA would be any better able to do its job by reason of membership on the IAC nor that it would make much more of a contribution to intelligence as a member than it is already doing as an outsider. I do believe, however, that the inter-agency relationships should be determining here since they are important and since the substantive considerations seem to me to be neutral.

2. In the light of these considerations, I recommend that the DCI raise the question of the USIA membership with the IAC for consideration, that he indicate a friendly view of the matter, but that he make clear his desire to avoid ramming any such action through the IAC.


RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
Special Assistant to the Director
for Planning and Coordination

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5 August 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Office of Research and Intelligence, USIA

1. Forwarded herewith is memorandum from the SA/PC/DCI and a description of the activities of ORI/USIA.

2. As I stated at a recent morning meeting I am strongly in favor of granting membership on the IAC to this organization; but I do not concur in the recommendation that Mr. Streibert be advised to apply for membership. I believe that we are a very exclusive group and should decide the question internally and then invite USIA to join rather than be confronted with an application which would be embarrassing to turn down if the community's decision was adverse.

3. The arguments in favor of granting ORI/USIA full standing on the IAC include the following:

a. USIA has grown in size and stature so that Mr. Streibert now is a full-fledged member of the OCB and a regular attender at the NSC, that is to say USIA has a stature among the security agencies comparable to that of State, Defense, and CIA.

b. USIA has in its ORI a full-fledged balanced intelligence organization with a tremendous potential for collection of intelligence information and with an analytical body that is reasonably comparable with that of OIR/State.

c. Its specialty, public opinion, has become recognized as one of the essential EELs pertaining to National Estimates. This material is now in raw and analyzed form circulated throughout the community and passed directly to the President by Mr. Nelson Rockefeller. As such it may be in competition and conflict with our NIE's. This is highly undesirable as constituting incomplete staff work by the intelligence community in the service of the President and NSC. It is also undesirable in that it may well lead to intelligence discussions at the OCB or NSC which should have been resolved in the proper intelligence forum, the IAC. In this connection it is interesting to note that the personal informal contribution of Mr. Loomis, the head of ORI, to NIE 100-5-55 (attached) saved the same from being quite far wide of the mark.

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SUBJECT: Office of Research and Intelligence, USIA

d. ORI/USIA cannot perform its departmental intelligence responsibilities which bear heavily on the national security without full stature as a member in the community so that it will receive prompt and complete dissemination of appropriate intelligence materials. It now gets full collaboration from our DDP people but is pretty badly blocked off from OCI, the military intelligence agencies, etc.

4. The only substantial argument I can see against granting USIA membership is the general objection to increasing the size of any working body. I believe this can be worked out by having USIA or AEC representative at the table with the other in observer status because their fields of competence almost never overlap. My preliminary discussions with Commissioner Von Neuman indicate this will be acceptable to the Commission.

5. I am informed that General Trudeau will react favorably to this proposal. Discreet soundings are being made to ascertain the position of OIR/State.

6. Recommendation: That the Agency position be determined internally as favoring membership for ORI/USIA on the IAC, and that I be authorized to sound out the other members of the IAC informally and instructed to prepare appropriate IAC action papers for consideration in September.


ROBERT AMORY, JR.
Deputy Director/Intelligence

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